

In strongly supporting the U.S. Military it is important to ensure that our service men and women are the best-trained and most equipped soldiers in the world. In my work as a senior Member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee two themes provide guidance in my purpose: *Defending America & Protect the Homeland* and *Restoring America's Energy Independence*

### **Defend America & Protect the Homeland**

We must provide the most modernized Defense systems and equipment for our forces, including Guard & Reserve units. It is critical our government secure the United States Defense Industrial Base and recapture key Defense technologies from foreign outsourcing. Our forces need to be provided the finest training and up to date equipment.

### **Restore America's Energy Independence**

The world will see that Northwest Ohio is the "Green Energy Community" in the U.S. and our technology and experience in alternative energy allow us the opportunity to showcase projects that restore our nation's energy independence. It is also our goal to lead our nation's efforts to secure energy independence at all U.S. military bases and installations. We are demonstrating that leadership through Toledo's 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and their newly online 730-kilowatt solar electric generation plant, which will provide an annual utility savings of \$100,000 and was supplied by 99.7% local, Northwestern Ohio solar content.

We are also dedicated to the utilization of and specialization in strategic metals, including the construction of a new plant in Elmore, Ohio for the manufacturing of beryllium. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), Brush Wellman is constructing a \$90.4 million facility to serve as the primary beryllium facility for America's Defense needs. The new facility is being funded by an innovative public-private partnership between Brush Wellman and the U.S. Government through the DOD's Defense Production Act, Title III Program. Under the Program, Brush Wellman will contribute research and development, technology, land and buildings and will provide ongoing operations, while the government will fund engineering, design and equipment. The facility will produce primary beryllium, the feedstock material used

to produce beryllium metal products.

### **Military Personnel**

We have worked to secure expanded health benefits to Veterans, Guardsmen and Reservists, by supporting increases in hardship benefits, imminent danger pay, the elimination of out-of-pocket housing expenses and family separation allowance. Our efforts must continue on these important issues. In the current 2009 fiscal year Defense Appropriations bill we have put our troops first, preparing them for whatever emergencies may arise, providing them with first class weapons and equipment, and ensuring that they and their families are well taken care of. The bill makes critical investments into the health, well-being and readiness of our forces. These recommendations address issues raised by troops, their families and Department of Defense officials in testimony before the Congress, and discovered through visits to military bases across the United States and overseas. At the same time, the bill realizes its obligation to meet the recent dependence on the use of contractors with increased support for their management and oversight. It likewise makes a commitment to fiscal responsibility.

#### ***KEY INVESTMENTS & PROVISIONS INCLUDE:***

- **Addressing Equipment Shortfalls:** \$750 million is specifically set aside to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve have all of the tools they need after years of irresponsible shortfalls. Our Committee added this funding and the President did not request funding specifically for Guard and Reserve.
- **Quality Training:** \$23.6 billion, \$1.2 billion above 2008, so that our troops are prepared to successfully perform their missions.
- **Compensation for Stop Loss:** \$72 million, not requested by the President, for a new initiative to pay troops \$500 for every month their term of service will be involuntarily and arbitrarily extended in 2009.
- **First Class Medical Care:** \$25.8 billion to provide our troops with top of the line medical care. This includes \$300 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health.
- **Supporting Military Families:** \$2.8 billion for family advocacy efforts, dependents' education and daycare programs.
- **Barracks and Military Hospitals:** \$3 billion to improve army barracks, military hospitals, and other facilities.
- **Shipbuilding:** \$14.1 billion for construction of eight ships (one more than the Budget's request).
- **Army Future Combat Systems:** \$3.6 billion to accelerate the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Unmanned Ground Vehicle programs.

- **Inspector General Oversight:** \$262 million for much needed additional personnel to increase oversight of Defense contractors.
- **Reigning in Outsourcing:** \$12.5 billion, \$650 million below the request, as outsourcing efforts have failed to produce promised cost savings.
- **Detention Facility at Guantanamo:** Requires the Secretary of Defense produce a report within 180 days of enactment detailing plans for a potential closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo.
- **Torture:** Continues to carry a provision prohibiting torture.

## Iraq

I was against war in Iraq since it was first proposed by the previous Administration. The war in Iraq has been ineffective because the U.S. military incursion could neither make our country safer nor the Middle East any less dangerous. Unilateral military action by the U.S. without broad international support isolates America from our allies and thrusts us into the position of becoming a common enemy in a volatile region where terrorism grows with each passing year. Nevertheless, it is important to remain committed to providing necessary supplies to our brave service men and women serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Buy American Efforts

We have introduced strong Buy American provisions into Defense legislation that would assist tool and die manufacturers, foundry operators and machinists to compete with larger defense subcontractors in procuring contracts from the U.S. Department of Defense.

The legislation would establish a technical assistance center to help these small companies work with the Pentagon and strengthen Buy America provisions that demand that at least half the contracts awarded to the defense industry are given to American companies. Enhancement of the Buy America provisions would stimulate U.S. manufacturing and machine tool industries while maintaining indigenous industrial base capabilities that would be used in times of war rather than depend on foreign suppliers for the production of key critical components.

Our employers are having a hard time competing with low-wage competitors in the Far East. We need a strong industrial base in America, and healthy small tool and die companies are essential to keeping that base strong.